

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8477

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3857

USIAC

USIS MANILA FOR YAKI AND PHILLIPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION ON ASEAN CONFERENCE

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ON PREPARATIONS FOR US-ASEAN TALKS DURING THE FIFTH ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING IN PATTAYA WERE LIMITED, AND NO SPECULATIONS WERE MADE AS TO THE PROBABLE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS. EXCERPTS FROM THE MOST SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS ARE GIVEN BELOW.

2. STRAITS TIMES, SEPT. 3. HEADLINE: ASEAN WILL PRESENT 11 MEMOS AT MANILA TALKS.

"ASEAN WILL PRESENT 11 MEMORANDA ON EIGHT TOPICS AT THE THREE-DAY ASEAN-UNITED STATES DIALOGUE BEGINNING IN MANILA NEXT WEDNESDAY.

"THEY WILL DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH:

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ASEAN'S DESIRE TO SEEK AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE MULTIFIBRE ARRANGEMENT;
THE ASEAN STAND ON MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS;
WIDER AND DEEPER COVERAGE OF ASEAN EXPORTS UNDER THE AMERICAN GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP); AND
RETENTION OF TAX INCENTIVES FOR AMERICAN COMPANIES INVESTING IN ASEAN AND GREATER AMERICAN FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS.

"SOURCES SAID ASEAN WILL ASK THE U.S. TO SET UP A CUMULATIVE RULE OF ORIGIN FOR ASEAN EXPORTS.

"THEY WILL ALSO URGE THE U.S. TO INCLUDE INDONESIA UNDER THE AMERICAN GSP WHICH HAS NOT BEEN EXTENDED TO MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC) OF WHICH INDONESIA IS A MEMBER.

"BESIDES ASKING FOR THE RETENTION OF THE AMERICAN TAX DEFERRAL SYSTEM FOR AMERICAN COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE REGION, ASEAN WILL ALSO PRESS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF INVESTMENT INCENTIVES GRANTED UNDER THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

"ASEAN WILL ALSO SEEK ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT ASEAN-U.S. SCHEME TO STABILIZE EXPORT EARNINGS (STABEX) OF ASEAN EXPORTERS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS." (AHMAD OSMAN)

3. SUNDAY TIMES, SEPT. 4. HEADLINE: ASEAN SET FOR ECONOMIC TALKS WITH U.S.

"ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS COMPLETED PREPARATIONS TODAY FOR A WIDE-RANGING ECONOMIC DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES STARTING IN MANILA NEXT WEEK.

"ASEAN OFFICIALS MADE CLEAR THE AIM OF THE DIALOGUE IS TO DRAW THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER INTO A SERIES OF NEW ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS TO NON-COMMUNIST ASIA IN THE POST-VIETNAM ERA.

"THE U.S. WILL BE ASKED TO UNDERWRITE THE EARNINGS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FIVE ASEAN COUNTRIES FROM EXPORTS OF THEIR MAJOR PRIMARY COMMODITIES, OPEN ITS MARKETS TO A BROAD RANGE OF THEIR MANUFACTURED GOODS AND SUPPORT THE REGION'S INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY RESOURCES...WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO ASSIST IN EXPANDING, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THE TRAUMA OF THE INDO-CHINA WAR IS OVER,' PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC PLANNING MINISTER GERADO SICAT COMMENTED.

"DR. SICAT SAID U.S. TECHNOLOGY AND ASSISTANCE WOULD BE SOUGHT TO REVIEW THE SEARCH FOR OIL IN THE ASEAN REGION, AND THE EXPLOITATION OF ITS ENERGY RESOURCES.

"ASEAN WANTED TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD ENCOURAGE PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE REGION, PERHAPS THROUGH THE POLITICAL RISK INSURANCE SCHEME OF THE OFFICE OF (SIC) PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION OR THROUGH SPECIAL TAX BREAKS FOR OVERSEAS OIL EXPLORATION.

"THE MALAYSIAN PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER, DATUK MUSA HITAM, SAID THE ASEAN COUNTRIES AGREED AS A GENERAL STRATEGY TO ASK THE U.S., THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET AND JAPAN EACH TO SET UP A STABILIZATION FUND TO PROTECT ASEAN EARNINGS FROM THE PARTICULAR COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO EACH COUNTRY." STRYKER

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